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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 17) and Corr.1).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Full support was expressed for programme 17 and all its subprogrammes. The work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as a centre of excellence was also commended. It was observed that ECLAC played an important role towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The important contribution of ECLAC in the areas of poverty eradication, enhancing regional integration and social cohesion, and strengthening gender mainstreaming in public policies was also emphasized. The vulnerability of the Latin American and Caribbean region to natural disasters and the need for adaptation and mitigation programmes in relation to climate change were acknowledged.

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4. The view was expressed that the inclusion of South-South cooperation in the programme plan was important. The Committee was informed that one of the mandates that had emerged from the thirty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo from 9 to 13 June 2008, was to develop a methodology to measure South-South cooperation activities, and an online repository of needs and available capacities for that type of cooperation in the region, avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity with other international organizations, such as the Latin American Economic System. Furthermore, the view was expressed that ECLAC should focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy for sustainable development and on building consensus on social cohesion in Ibero-America, with special attention to migration.

5. Clarification was sought as to how ECLAC would deal with the food crisis and its impact on the region. The Committee was informed that that issue was being fully incorporated in the current work programme of ECLAC and had also been addressed at the thirty-second session of the Commission. An organizational unit of ECLAC dealing specifically with agriculture that had partial responsibility for implementing subprogramme 2 was collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to analyse the regional dimension of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, adopted in Rome on 5 June 2008, in preparation for a regional forum to discuss practices and policies to tackle the impact of the food crisis. Clarification was also sought as to whether the difficulties in raising extrabudgetary resources from certain Bretton Woods institutions encountered in the period 2006-2007 would affect the work programme for the period 2010-2011. Clarification was further sought with regard to the incorporation in the planning process of lessons learned from successful policy implementation and with regard to the utilization of information and communication technology in tackling natural disasters.

6. It was observed that greater cooperation and coordination were foreseen in the programme plan, and clarification was sought as to how they would be achieved. Additionally, most indicators of achievement included the phrase "in line with ECLAC recommendations" and clarification was sought as to how those recommendations would be disseminated and communicated to member countries.

7. With regard to subprogramme 2, indicator of achievement (a) (ii), the question was raised as to how member countries could benefit from "the technical cooperation activities organized by the subprogramme".

8. Support was expressed for subprogramme 4, Social development and equity, and reference to the need for a specific approach that would take account of the diversity of countries in the region. The view was also expressed that the strategy of the subprogramme complied with the agreement on the three pillars of sustainable development contained in the World Summit Outcome.

9. The mainstreaming of a gender perspective in regional development, as reflected in subprogramme 5, was commended, including promotion of the human rights of men and women. Clarification was sought as to whether there was coordination between ECLAC and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

10. Under subprogramme 6, Population and development, the inclusion of international migration was welcomed.

11. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion in subprogramme 8 of an expected accomplishment relating to enhanced capacity of the Governments of the region and other stakeholders to follow up the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

12. Support was expressed for subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, and clarification was sought as to how ECLAC could strengthen national capacity to mitigate natural disasters. The Committee was informed that ECLAC had a focal point at its subregional headquarters in Mexico to coordinate the work of the ECLAC system in assessing the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters in the region and advising on risk and vulnerability reduction. ECLAC also had a network of multidisciplinary professionals, ready to respond to requests for assessment and to prepare recovery projects. Training was provided by ECLAC staff to professionals, experts and national and subregional authorities in the use of the ECLAC methodology to assess the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**